



# MEMO



N O R T H C A R O L I N A D I V I S I O N O F  
E M E R G E N C Y M A N A G E M E N T

## Hazard Mitigation Assistance Programs Benefit Communities

The Federal Emergency Management Agency has five programs to help fund mitigation projects that reduce disaster losses and protect life and property from future damages. North Carolina Emergency Management's Hazard Mitigation Section serves as the state administrator for the Hazard Mitigation Assistance programs.

**The Hazard Mitigation Grant Program** provides grants to states, local governments and tribal organizations to implement long-term mitigation measures after a presidential declared disaster. The primary purpose is to reduce the loss of life and property due to a natural disaster and to enable mitigation measures to be implemented during the recovery from the disaster. FEMA funds 75% of the project's eligible costs; the state funds the remaining 25%. Examples of HMGP projects include: elevating flood-prone structures, acquiring private damage-prone property and converting it to open space, and retrofitting structures and facilities to minimize damage from natural hazards such as high winds and wildfires.

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**Flood Mitigation Assistance** provides funds to reduce or eliminate flood damage to buildings insured under the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP). Three types of grants are available to state, local and tribal organization within this program. Planning grants help communities prepare flood mitigation plans. Project grants are used to implement measures to reduce flood losses and technical assistance grants are used by states to help administer the FMA program.

**Pre-Disaster Mitigation** grants provide funds to states, local governments, tribal organizations, communities and universities for hazard mitigation planning and implementing mitigation projects prior to a disaster. The funds are used for plans and projects that reduce overall risks to the general population and structures, while also reducing

reliance on funding from actual disaster declarations.

**Repetitive Flood Claims** grants provide annual funds to individual properties insured under the National Flood Insurance Program to reduce the risk of flood damage. The program provides up to 100% federal funding unlike most other assistance programs that only provide 75% federal money.

**Severe Repetitive Loss** program grants help reduce or eliminate the long-term risk of flood damage to those structures that are insured under the NFIP, but that have sustained repeated damages. Residential properties covered under NFIP that have had at least four claims exceeding \$5,000 each or two separate claim payments that exceed the market value of the structures are eligible for the program.



*A home in Belhaven, NC was elevated under the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program.*

Once FEMA releases guidance for the hazard mitigation assistance programs, NCEM will encourage state, local and tribal organizations to identify their community hazardous projects that need improvement. The Hazardous Mitigation Section will then prioritize the suggested projects according to the state mitigation planning objectives and recommend selected projects to FEMA.

During the next few months, the MEMO will highlight each program and describe how North Carolina communities are taking advantage of the program's assistance.

## **Emergency Management Forum summary**

Close to 200 local and state emergency management staff attended the biennial forum held Jan. 13 in Greensboro. Others tuned in to the seminar via the web.

Seminar participants heard the state's update on emergency planning efforts for licensed care facilities. The division has been working with N.C. Office of Emergency Medical Services and leaders in the health service regulation field to develop standard plans to help licensed care facilities prepare for emergencies. A package is being developed to guide licensed care facilities through the disaster planning process. The completed disk is expected to contain template plans, training modules, checklists and references that facilities can use to develop their emergency plans. NCEM plans to field test the licensed care facility planning package in February. Eventually, the planning package is expected to also be used to help hospitals, adult care, assisted living/nursing homes, mental health and prisons/detention centers develop their emergency plans.



*NCEM Deputy Director Mike Sprayberry addresses the audience.*

The division continues its work to develop a statewide registry for those who have special needs during a disaster. While still in the early development stages, initial plans indicate the special needs registry could be operational in WebEOC with information password-protected and available only to select county or state emergency management officials.

The N.C. General Assembly last year authorized establishing a voluntary medical registry program so that emergency workers can help special needs patients, such as those who use wheelchairs or need oxygen tanks, during a disaster.

Forum participants heard the State Emergency Response Commission's recommendations for 2010 homeland security projects. The SERC recommended \$20 million for 45 local and state projects to help with training and exercises, as well as various projects in the medical, law enforcement, interoperable communications, emergency response and emergency management areas.

The division is working with its local partners to reevaluate emergency management performance grant requirements. An EMPG working group is currently refining the proposal process. Some standard requirements will be tied to base funding and optional activities tied to additional funding will be based on the project's complexity. Some activities can be negotiated based upon the county's priorities and capabilities. One of the emergency management performance grant requirements was to review and update county emergency operation procedures, emphasizing point of distribution and county receiving and distribution point plans. Other requirements include having an active local



## State Emergency Response Commission Summary

The State Emergency Response Commission met Jan. 15 to discuss homeland security grant fund allocations for the 2010 fiscal year. While 87 projects worth \$47 million were submitted, North Carolina only received \$14.6 million in federal Homeland Security funds this year. The SERC Commissioners recommended 45 of the projects for a total \$20 million. NCEM will spend the next several weeks seeking ways to trim the difference. Final project recommendations and funding amounts must be submitted to U.S. DHS by April 19.

Darryl Aspey with the U.S. Department of Homeland Security discussed the Enhanced Critical Infrastructure Protection and the Automated Critical Asset Management System programs. In the Enhanced Critical Infrastructure Protection program, DHS staff meet with facility owners of power stations, buildings, communication towers and other critical structures to evaluate their strengths and vulnerabilities and recommend measures to protect the facilities against an attack. The Automated Critical Asset Management Systems program is a web-enabled information service portal that helps state and local governments build critical infrastructure/key resource protection programs in their local jurisdictions.



*Mike Sprayberry (center) talks with NCEM Area Coordinators Mike Cook (left) and Mark Brown (right).*

Mike Hodgson, a radio engineer with the N.C. State Highway Patrol provided an update on the voice interoperability program for emergency responders (VIPER). Currently, 144 of the 240 planned sites are online thanks to DHS grants from FY2004 to 2006. Thirty-nine sites are under construction and 25 more sites are partially funded. An additional \$60.5 million is needed to complete the project's infrastructure. Once completed, VIPER is estimated to cost \$7.5 million annually to maintain and support the system.

Already, 182 emergency response agencies with 43,000 users are participating in VIPER. North Carolina is considered one of the top five states for interoperable communications with greater opportunities as technology grows.

NCEM Director Doug Hoell spoke to the commission about the state's mission-ready response packages. Director Hoell shared a plan created by the N.C. National Guard (NCNG) to better prepare and assist counties with deployable mission-ready assets. NCNG is limited in resources and personnel to deployment missions. The idea is to create predefined packages to better help resource planning and assets requests in the event of a state declared disaster.

Director Hoell said the resource components and the ability to deliver those resources are the same no matter what the disaster. A disaster can overwhelm an agency's ability to define needs and set priorities; NCEM can simplify the process by pre-defining the deployable mission ready inventory. The packages will include a stated mission, limitations, equipment and staff support needed, costs and special instructions. This information will also be accessible in WebEOC.

Hoell also said a Joint Receiving Staging and Onward Integration (JRSOI) has been established to become a receiving point for disasters. The JRSOI concept is to provide a transition point for majority of the responders in 24 hours or less. A location to check credentials and sort assignments and to ensure all responders has the proper equipment needed for the mission.

The next SERC meeting is scheduled for Apr. 10. For more information, contact John Yarboro at 919-715-8000, ext. 340 or [jyarboro@ncem.org](mailto:jyarboro@ncem.org).

## NCEM Recognizes Regional Response Team Leaders

On Jan. 14, NCEM recognized and thanked three captains for their service to the hazardous material Regional Response Teams (RRT).

Battalion Chief David Hines from RRT- 2 in New Hanover County, Assistant Chief Gary Cornett from RRT- 6 in Buncombe County and Battalion Chief Jim Robinson from RRT-5 in Guilford County have served the RRT program for a combined 17 years.

N.C. Dept. of Crime Control and Public Safety Secretary Reuben Young thanked the three for their dedicated service and presented each chief with a certificate of appreciation. Two of the chiefs are leaving the RRT program; Cornett retired last fall and Hines will take another role with the Wilmington Fire Department.

Young presented the certificates at the Regional Response Team Advisory Committee meeting. The committee is comprised of staff from NCEM, State Highway Patrol, and the departments of Insurance, Transportation, Agriculture and Environmental and Natural Resources, as well as representatives from the State Bureau of Investigation, Association of Hazardous Material Responders, Association of Fire Chiefs, State Fireman's Association and the Manufacturer and Chemical Industry.

For more information, contact Chris Rose at 919-715-0465 or [crose@ncem.org](mailto:crose@ncem.org).

Note: Not shown in photo is Gary Cornett. A member of his staff accepted on his behalf.



*CCPS Secretary Reuben Young (left) and Battalion Chief David Hines (right).*



*CCPS Secretary Reuben Young (left) and Battalion Chief Jim Robinson (right).*

## State Holds Deep Freeze Exercise

North Carolina Emergency Management will test their winter storm response plans Feb. 24 when they conduct the "Deep Freeze" exercise. During the training event, the agency will test their mission assignment coordination guidelines which outline how to fill requests for unmet emergency resource needs. The process dictates that county or state agencies submit requests for help or resources to the appropriate state or federal partner that can meet that need after they have exhausted their own resources.

During a State Emergency Response Team activation, NCEM's three field offices will turn into Regional Coordination Centers to handle requests from their assigned counties. For more information, contact Alan Roberts at 919-715-9268 or [aroberts@ncem.org](mailto:aroberts@ncem.org).

## CAMET Training Scheduled

N.C. Division of Emergency Management and N.C. Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services are partnering to provide training for the companion animal mobile equipment trailer (CAMET) program Feb. 24 at Davidson County Community College. The all-day training will teach an expected 50 to 100 individuals how to mobilize, operate, manage and demobilize a CAMET when needed during an emergency. The training also will cover how to read animal body language.

For more information on the animal sheltering, see [www.ncagrgis.com/sheltering/](http://www.ncagrgis.com/sheltering/) or <http://nc.sartusa.org/>. For more information on the CAMET program, contact Tim Johnson at 919-715-4077 or [tjohnson@ncem.org](mailto:tjohnson@ncem.org).

## Helicopter Aquatic Rescue Teams To Train in Badin

N.C. Helicopter and Aquatic Rescue Teams (NCHART) will hold a two-day training session in Badin Feb. 16 and 17. During the exercise, personnel will test standard operating procedures and allow inexperienced personnel the opportunity to train in a simulated event, as well as allow experienced personnel the chance to improve their skills.

NCHART is a highly specialized team consisting of N.C. National Guard assets matched with N.C. Emergency Management and local emergency services personnel. Together, the group forms a mission-ready package for helicopter-based rescues using the UH-60 Blackhawk. Examples of NCHART missions include: swiftwater and flood rescues, rescues of lost persons or those with severe injuries, and rescues of persons with projected extended evacuations.

NCHART trains on a quarterly basis in various skills ranging from swiftwater/flood rescue to high angle and wilderness rescue. For more information, contact Todd Brown at 919-733-4998 or [tbrown@ncem.org](mailto:tbrown@ncem.org).

## New State Search and Rescue Coordinator

Timothy Denning joined NCEM in January as the new search and rescue coordinator. Timothy comes to NCEM with extensive background in training, planning and the operational components of search and rescue.

Timothy replaces Todd Brown, who is now NCEM's emergency services group supervisor. Timothy can be reached at 919-733-2925 or [tdenning@ncem.org](mailto:tdenning@ncem.org).



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### ***"In the Business of Saving Lives and Protecting Property"***

*The North Carolina Division of Emergency Management was formed in 1977 to coordinate the preparedness, response, recovery and mitigation activities of all agencies for emergency management within North Carolina. It performs this mission by planning, organizing, staffing, equipping, training, testing and activating emergency management programs during times of need.*